PLANT FACT SHEET

Cayratia maritima Jackes

GENUS *Cayratia* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild grape, Bitter potato, Oenpelli grape

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit can be eaten raw. It has a strong taste.

DESCRIPTION

A scrambling vine. Each year the top dies down but the plant re-grows from the rootstock. The plant has tendrils which are divided into 3 at the tip. The leaves occur one after another along opposite sides of the stalk. Each leaf is made up of 3 leaflets. The central leaflet is oval and 4-9 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. The side leaflets are unequal in shape and 3-8 cm long by 2.4 cm wide. The edges of all the leaflets have teeth. The leaflets do not have hairs except for a row of hooked hairs along the midrib. The flower cluster has 3-5 branches and grows from the axil of the leaf. The cluster is made up of many flowers and is 10 cm wide. The flowers are greenish-white and 1-2 mm across. The fruit is rounded but also flattened. It is 1.5 cm across and 1 cm long. The fruit are black when ripe. Inside there are 2-4 seeds. These are boat shaped and 5-7 mm long. They have ridges.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. Plants grow on the edges of monsoon forest near the coast. They commonly occur near permanent water.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can regrow from the underground tuber. Plants grow in the wet season and die back in the dry season.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In northern Australia flowering occurs from April to June and the fruit are ripe May and June.

NOTES

There are about 45 Cayratia species. They are mainly in tropical areas.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/76dd0b4e-02c7-4fe3-9eaf-3820eba088de